

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PE

SUBJECT: BIO INFORMATION ON NEW MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE,
ALCIBIADES SAENZ BARSALLO

REF: LIMA 5628

1. BRIGADIER GENERAL ALCIBIADES SAENZ BARSALLO, TO BE SWORN
IN JULY 7 AS NEW MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, IS A
REGULAR ARMY AND COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING OFFICER WITH
PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUT
LITTLE OR NO PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN THE FIELD. HE
REPLACES THE THIRD CIVILIAN TO SERVE IN THE CABINET SINCE
THE MILITARY TAKEOVER IN OCTOBER 1968, LEAVING FONMIN DE LA
PUENTE AS THE ONLY NON-MILITARY CABINET OFFICER IN THE
MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT.

2. SANEZ, WHO IS REPORTEDLY HIGHLY COMPETENT IN MATH-
MATICS, SERVED AS MILITARY ADVISOR TO THEN-MINISTER OF
ECONOMY AND FINANCE MORALES BERMUDEZ FROM 1971-73. DURING
THE SAME PERIOD HE WAS DIRECTOR GENERAL DEL PRESUPUESTO
PUBLICO (BUDGET DIRECTOR) IN THE MINISTRY
AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MINERO-PERU,
THE STATE OWNED MINING ENTERPRISE. AT THAT TIME HE WAS
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REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO THEN-MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES GEN. JORGE
FERNANDEZ MALDONADO SOLARI, CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE VELASCO,
OR FIRST, PHASE OF THE REVOLUTION. IN 1975 HE WAS NAMED
DIRECTOR OF THE ECONOMY, PERUVIAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF, A POST
EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL. IN MARCH OF THIS
YEAR SAENZ WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE STATE-OWNED PERUVIAN TELEPHONE COMPANY.

3. SAENZ, WHO IS A QUIET, SCHOLARLY OFFICER WHO COMMUNICATES EFFECTIVELY BUT CHOOSES HIS WORDS CAREFULLY, HAS HELD SUCCESSFULLY KEY COMMAND AND STAFF JOBS THOUGHOUT HIS CAREER. HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND IN OCTOBER 1975 WAS NAMED COMMANDER THE 9TH ARMORED DIVISION. A GRADUATE OF THE 1970 CAEM COURSE, HE VISITED THE U.S. IN SEPTEMBER, 1970.

4. DAO SOURCES DESCRIBE SAENZ AS PRO-U.S., PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF ATTENDING ADVANCED COURSE AT FT. MONMOUTH, N.J. IN 1957-58. HE IS HOWEVER, AN ECONOMIC NATIONALIST AND ONCE DESCRIBED POST-IPC U.S. ECONOMIC POLICES VIS-A-VIS PERU AS TANTAMOUNT TO MONETARY BLACKMAIL. HE ALSO DESCRIBED POSITIONS TAKEN BY U.S. OWNED CERRO DE PASCO CORPORATION PRIOR TO NATIONALIZATION IN JUANUARY 1974 AS UNTENABLE AND PROVOCATIVE.

5. SAENZ WAS BORN IN THE TOWN OF CABALLOCOCHA IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LORETO, IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON, ON JULY 30, 1922.
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